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(54) METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CUTTING CARPET TILES

(71) We, SIDLAW INDUSTRIES LIMITED, a British Company, of Meadowplace Buildings, Dundee, Great Britain, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to a method of and apparatus for cutting carpet tiles.

At present carpet tiles are generally cut from lengths of carpet by cutting the carpet into strips of a predetermined width equal to that of the desired tile and by cutting the strips at predetermined points along the strips to obtain the final dimension of tile. By cutting in this manner every line of cut forms the edges of two tiles on opposite sides of the cutting blade. Such known methods have the serious disadvantage of producing carpet tiles which are dimensionally irregular.

Moreover, such known methods of cutting carpet tiles has a further disadvantage in that both the carpet backing and the pile are cut. Thus, when the tiles are laid the join between adjacent tiles is immediately apparent.

An object of the present invention is to provide a method of cutting carpet tiles which obviates or mitigates the aforementioned disadvantages, and to provide apparatus for carrying out the method.

According to the present invention there is provided a method of cutting carpet tiles comprising holding a pelt of carpeting on a base plate with the pile on the plate and cutting the backing of the pelt round the entire periphery of the tile while the pelt is held on the base plate.

Preferably, the backing of the carpeting is cut without cutting the pile.

Preferably also, said base plate is resiliently supported.

Further according to the present invention there is provided apparatus for carry-

ing out the aforesaid method and comprising a resiliently-supported base plate, a presser plate actuatable to press a pelt of carpeting on to said base plate and cutters actuatable when said pelt is held on said base plate to cut round the entire periphery of a carpet tile.

Preferably also, said presser plate is substantially the same shape as the desired shape of the carpet tile.

Preferably also, said cutter is in the form of a die-stamp.

Preferably also, the die-stamp is substantially rectangular.

Further according to the present invention there is provided a carpet tile cut by the method aforesaid.

An embodiment of the present invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a front view of apparatus according to the present invention; and

Fig. 2 is a front view of one edge of a carpet tile.

In the method according to the invention a pelt 1 of carpeting having a pile and a backing of, for example, P.V.C., is laid on to a base plate 2 with the pile downwards. A presser plate 3 is applied to the backing of the pelt so as to press the pelt firmly against the base plate 2. With the pelt thus held die stamp cutters 4 are applied to the backing of the pelt so as to cut through the backing only and so as to cut round the entire periphery of the carpet tile.

By cutting in the above manner only one side of a line of cut forms an edge of a carpet tile, the other side being discarded as waste. A plurality of carpet tiles may be cut from a single pelt by applying a corresponding number of cutters to the pelt always providing that a strip of waste is left between adjacent tiles so that only one side of any line of cut forms an edge of a carpet tile.

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